

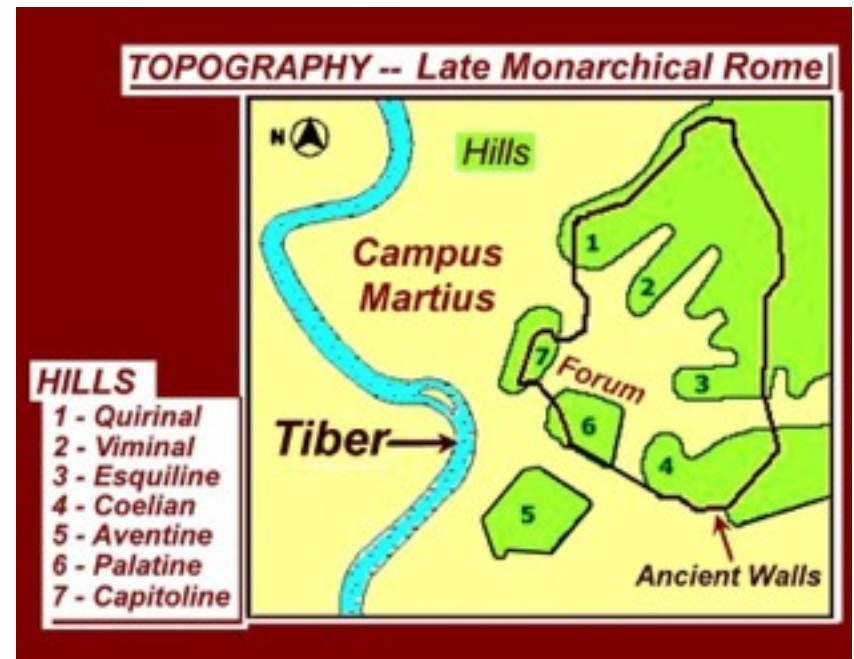
Founding of Rome (myth)



- *The Aeneid* tells the story of a hero Aeneas, a Trojan prince and son of the Greek goddess Aphrodite. He fled Troy during the war with the Greeks, and wandered for many years until he came to what is now Italy.
- One brother tried to overthrow another, and had his nephews and nieces killed to preserve his rule. He had his niece's twin infant sons, Romulus and Remus, thrown into a river.
- The babies washed on shore in a reed basket and were raised by a wolf until they are found by a shepherd that raised them on Palatine Hill.
- Later, Romulus killed Remus, became the first king, and named his city Rome.

Geographic Advantage

- The hills of Rome command the best place to cross the Tiber River
- Control of this crossing is control of the trade between northern and southern Italy.
- Rome sat on the salt road. Salt was very valuable and used to flavor and preserve foods.
- Good, fertile farmland was located nearby
- Rome lay 16 miles from sea allowing it to trade and fish, but far enough away from pirates in the Mediterranean.



The 7 hills of Rome.

Ruling Rome

There were three phases in the government of Rome:

- **Kingdoms - 753-509 BCE**

(King took advice from a council of elders, which limited his power. His position was not hereditary; instead, he was elected by a committee of 300 members of the ruling patrician class - the original Senate).

- **The Republic - 509-31 BCE**

Our focus in this first part of our study of Rome

- **The Empire - 27 BCE-476 CE**

A Republic

Ancient Athens was a direct democracy in which citizens could vote directly on laws.

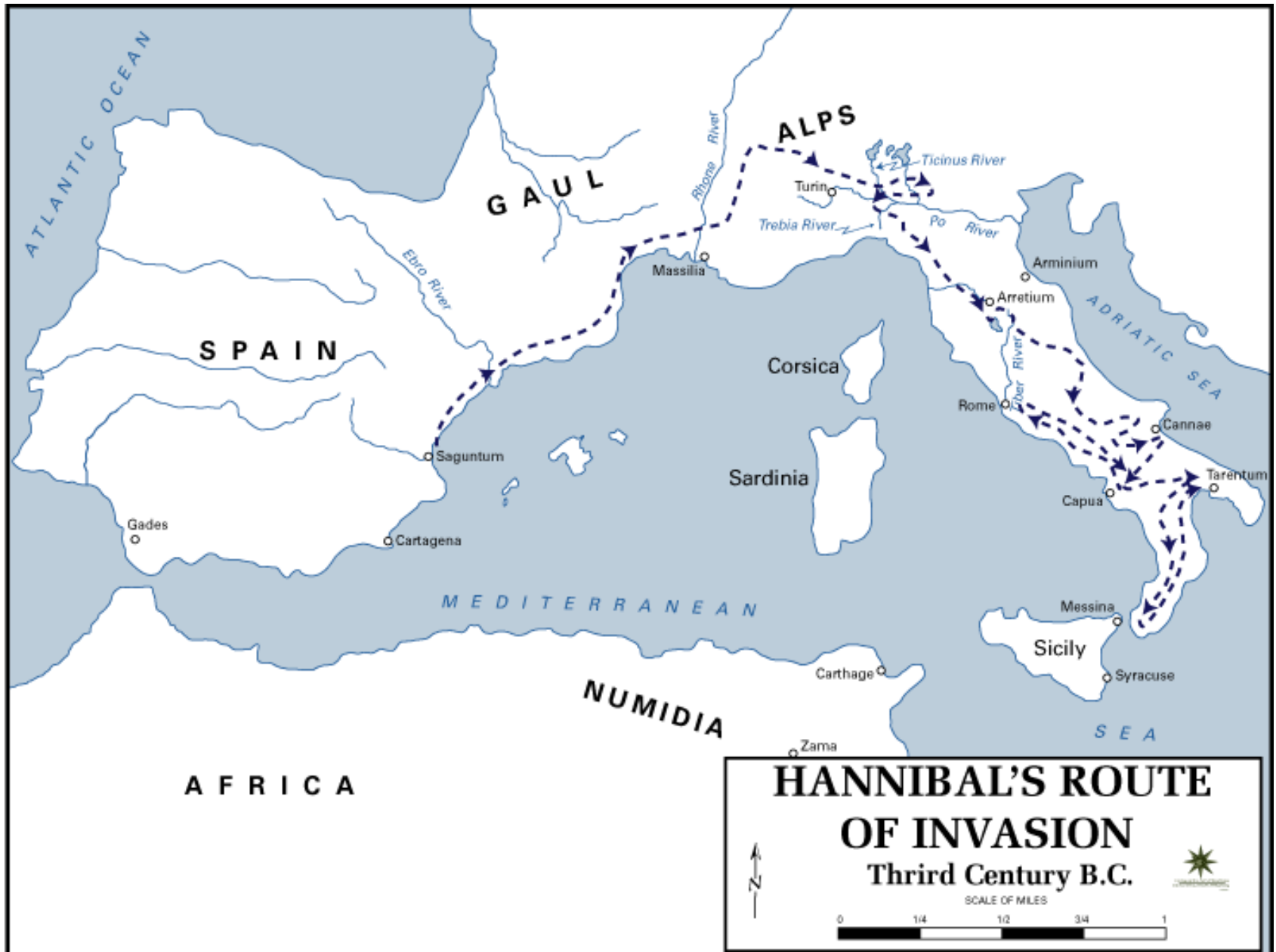
Ancient Rome was a representative democracy in which citizens voted for representatives.

In its pure form, a **republic** is a form of government in which the general population elects representatives to govern the nation.

Rivalry Between Rome & Carthage



2nd Punic War- Hannibal Invades



Hannibal's Victories

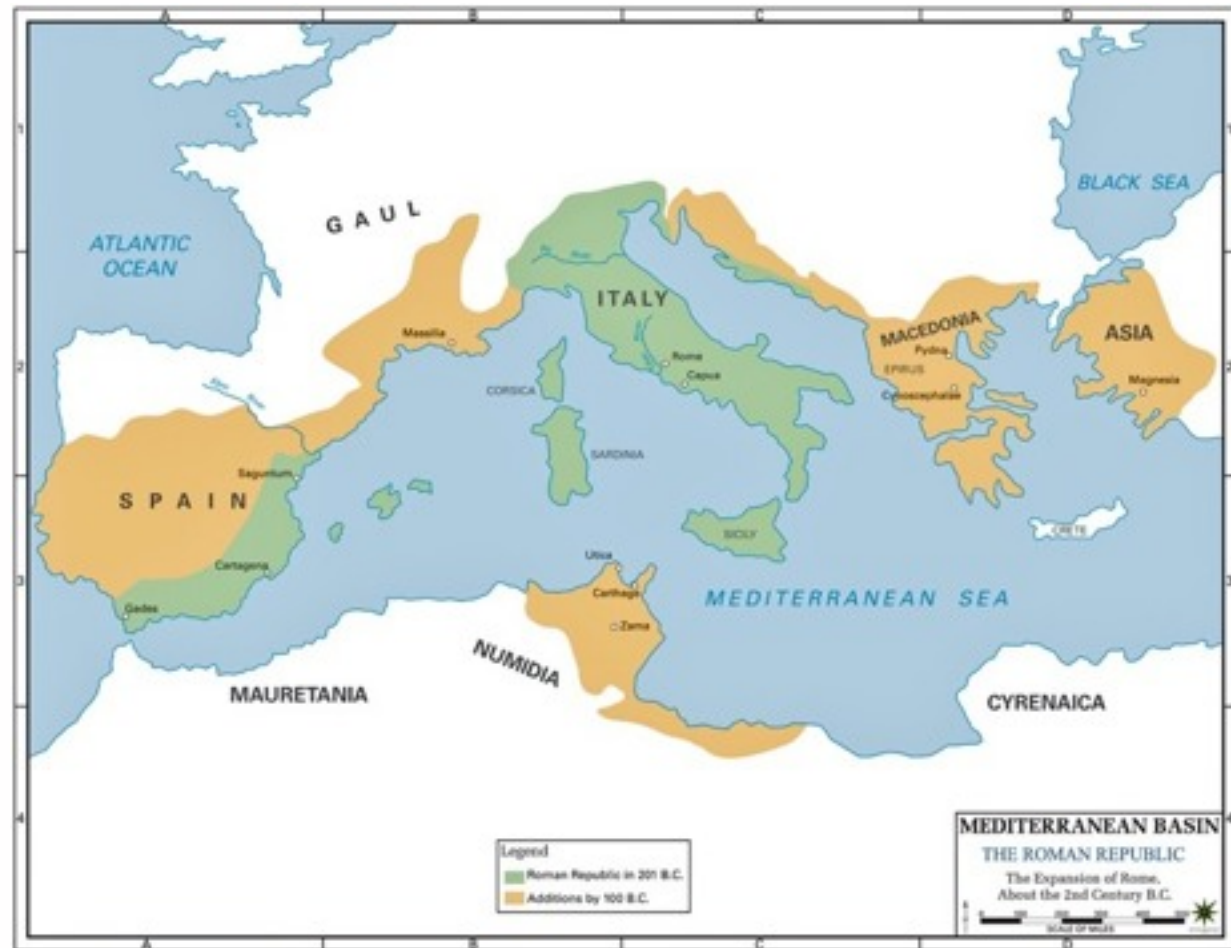
- Hannibal's rampaging destroyed large amounts of peasant (Plebeian) farmland.
- He rampaged the Italian countryside for 15 years





“Mare Nostrum” Our Sea

- In the Punic Wars, Rome fought against Carthage
- Carthage was a former Phoenician colony
- There were 3 major wars, all of which the Romans won.
- The result was that the Romans gained control of the Mediterranean (especially after they also conquered Greece in the eastern part of the Mediterranean).



Effects of Punic Wars

- Many small farmers and soldiers were forced to sell their lands because they had no funds to repair it after being away fighting.
- The lands were then taken by rich landowners that used slaves as laborers
- This left many small land-owners and veterans unemployed.



- Many of the unemployed moved to the city of Rome looking for work and food aid.
- The Roman Army had fewer eligible soldiers because you had to own land to be a soldier.



Gracchi Reforms

- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were patricians who represented plebians and were concerned about growing inequality. They sought to lower grain prices and help veterans and unemployed.
- They stood up for plebeians against the patrician-controlled Senate.
- Popular with plebians.



Land Act

Gracchus brothers proposed reforms to take land from rich landowners and give away huge tracts of land to Roman veterans. The veterans would settle the land and begin to farm it in the traditional Roman manner. They would have families and raise a new generation of Romans.



Tiberius tried to work through the Senate to enact his reforms, but he was opposed at every step by Senators who thought the reforms challenged their political and economic power. He was later assassinated by a group of Senators.

Summary

- There were numerous armed uprisings caused by growing inequalities in the Roman Republic, despite the Gracchus brothers' and other efforts at reform. These uprisings and the use of political violence helped lead to the end of the Roman Republic.



Strong Men Vie For Power

Crassus • Pompey • Julius Caesar

